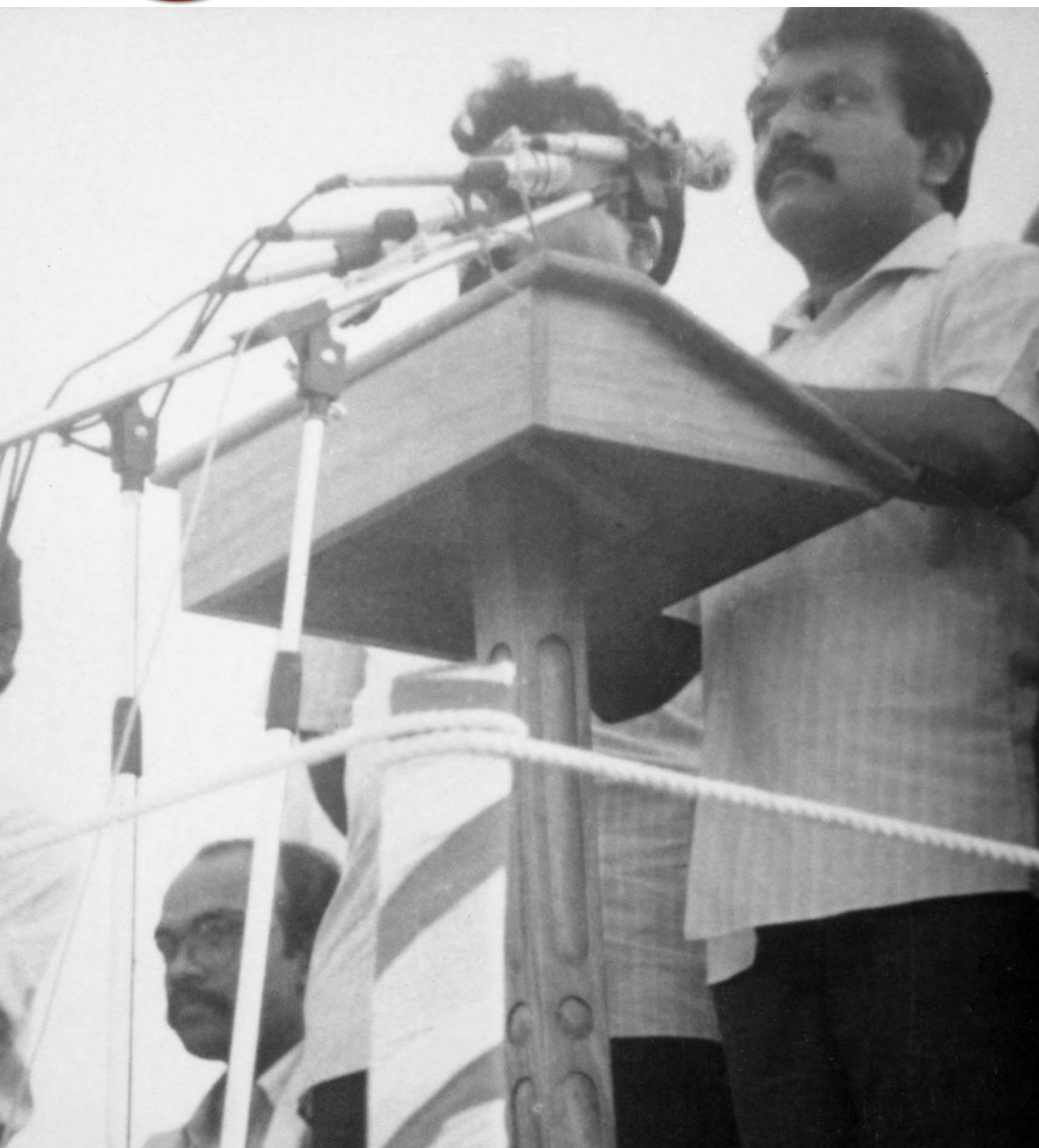




Akkinip Parabaikal

**AUGUST ISSUE
2021**

Puradsi Media.
Phoenix - the Next
Generation



Demonstration for Kowsika (Phoenix TNG)

Another stain in Switzerland's history unfurls not only with the case of Kowsika but countless others.

Proceed to page 03 for more.

Our Identity – National Flag of Tamil Eelam
(Kayalvizhi)

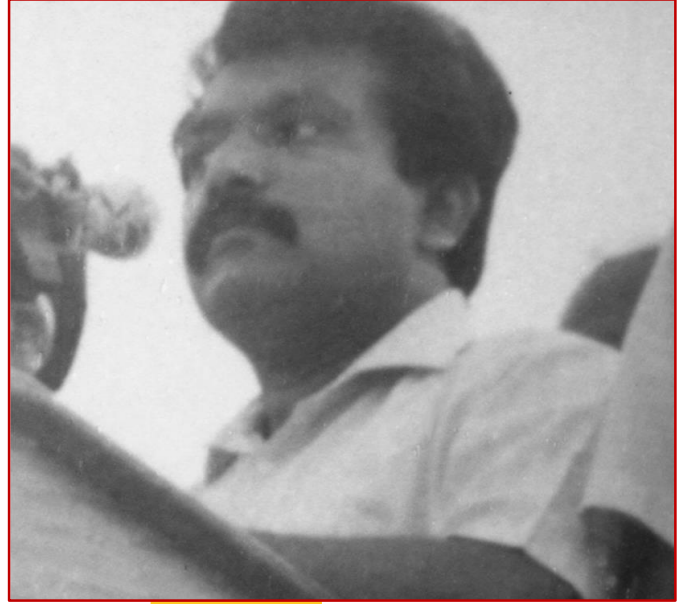
A national flag – the symbol of a people. What will ensue when a people fail to congregate behind such identification?

Proceed to page 15 for more.

“Regardless of whether we win or lose, this is our shared experience. This is merely a path in our journey.” – Ragesh Nambiar (SC Phoenix)

Echoes of the vision and continuity of Tamils' struggle for liberation resonate through insight into the Tamil Eelam Football Association's journey and trajectory.

Proceed to page 20 for more.



“தமிழீழத் தனியரசே தமிழீழ மக்களின்
பிரச்சினைக்கு நிரந்தரத் தீர்வை
அளிக்கும் என்பதில் எனக்கு அசையாத
நம்பிக்கையுண்டு.”

National Leader of Tamil Eelam,
V. Prabhakaran

Demonstration for Kowsika

PHOENIX TNG

On the 24th of August 2021 a demonstration for Kowsika took place in Basel, Switzerland. Organised by multiple organisations, this demonstration was aimed at the commence of a trial of four prison guards, who were charged with negligent homicide for the death of Kowsika in 2018.

Demonstration through the city

The demonstration gathered in front of the criminal court in Basel, where the trial of the four prison guards took place. Soon after 18.00 local time, the demonstrators started to walk towards "Spiegelhof", where the migration office is situated. A speech was made by Phoenix TNG before this migration office. In this speech the broader Tamil context of the situation of Tamil asylum seekers, the Tamil genocide and the involvement of the Swiss government was addressed. Following the speech, the demonstration proceeded through the city of Basel and reached the "Waaghof" prison after making a brief stop at Barfüsserplatz. The demonstration took a turn at the "Waaghof" prison and soon disbanded after ending formally. It is notable that "Waaghof" prison was the site where Kowsika died.



Kowsika - abandoned by the system and her community

Kowsika was 28 years old, when she died at the "Waaghof" prison. She was arrested by the police and was brought to the prison, where she tried to complete suicide. She was found by the prison guards who had cut the rope. Instead of providing her with first aid, the guards left Kowsika to lay on the floor. In the end, she died.

3 years after her death, her court case was commenced at the criminal court in Basel. After three days of trial, the four guards were acquitted from the charges. According to the court, the judgement was made as the cause of death was unclear - it could have been the denial of the first aid or the attempted suicide by Kowsika. The acquittal of the guards was hence made based on the supposed ambiguity in the cause of death.

Before her arrest, Kowsika faced a lot of issues from our community. Whilst she was underground due to her status, she was searching for a place to stay and a place to

work. However, some people from our community attempted to manipulate her situation to their advantage. They tried to request sexual favours from her in exchange for residence and employment. In another instance, she was bullied by fellow community members. Additionally, she did not receive much support from her family.

Finally, the asylum system broke Kowsika and led to her suicide. The same system also refused to provide her first aid and led to her death. In the end Kowsika did not receive any justice from the system. However, the main culprits are our community, who did not protect and support our fellow sister, who just needed a place to stay, to work and to live in comfort.

So, let us commemorate our sister Kowsika and let us not forget our brothers and sisters, who are also in the same situation.

P-TNG's speech at the demonstration

Kowsika is not an isolated case from the Tamil perspective. Last week, Eelam Tamil refugees tried to kill themselves in India. In addition, a Tamil refugee died last Friday in Australia because he set himself on fire. One has to ask why Tamil refugees are trying to kill themselves all over the world.

The reason is the discriminatory asylum procedures, which are supposed to wear down the refugees and encourage them to return themselves. But what does one do in a case like Sri Lanka, where disaster threatens upon return?



In Sri Lanka, a genocide is taking place. There they believe that the Buddha himself chose the island of Sri Lanka to protect Buddhism and that the Sinhalese are the "chosen people" to protect Buddhism. Therefore, they see all non-Sinhalese Buddhists as invaders, who must be fought.

This ideology has not only been implanted in the minds of the Sinhalese population over decades, but this ideology has also been institutionalised in the state of Sri Lanka. This can be seen in both the national flag and the constitution. In practice, this means that the Sri Lankan president meets monthly with the nearest Buddhist monks and seeks advice from them.

This ideology has brutal consequences for the Tamil population. After decades of peaceful protests, armed resistance had to be mounted. This resistance was ended with a genocidal massacre. To understand the brutality of this massacre, one must consider the following statistics. Between October 2008 and June 2009, during the government's final offensive, 146,679 people disappeared. This is equivalent to about 1/3 of the population of the theatre of war. This has resulted that Sri Lanka is having the second highest number of enforced disappearances in the world.



The perpetrators of this massacre are all back in power. Switzerland signed a migration partnership with the prior government in order to be able to repatriate the refugees "properly". The partnership was intended to exert a positive influence on Sri Lanka in order to solve problems such as the PTA law. In the meantime, however, Switzerland has passed a similar law, the PMT. In addition, Switzerland was also quite proud to be the only country from the West to maintain a consulate in

Jaffna. But this consulate was closed because of "security concerns". But refugees continue to be deported to the following areas.

Therefore, we as Tamils want to emphasise that Kowsika is not an isolated case, and that Switzerland has left another stain in its history.

International News

04.08.2021: **APT31** - According to Hacker News, an advanced cybersecurity threat named APT31 (FireEye) has been found to be linked to a series of 10 attacks between January - July 2021. Further reports indicate that the system is believed to be of Chinese origin and conducted with an intent of espionage to provide the Chinese government and state-owned enterprises with political, economic, and military advantages.

Countries Attacked:

- ◆ Mongolia
- ◆ Russia

- ◆ Belarus
- ◆ Canada
- ◆ US

05.08.2021: **Russia** - A Joint Tourism Project between Sri Lanka (SL) and Russia was launched on 04.08.2021, reports Virakesari. Reports indicate that direct flights between Colombo and Moscow will be operational twice a week from 02.09.2021 via Russia's largest airline, Aeroflot which has commenced ticket sales.

05.08.2021: **Amnesty International** - Amnesty International demanded clarification regarding SL's Attorney General's decision not to press charges against Vasantha Karannagoda's involvement regarding the "Navy 11" case where 11 Tamil youth were forcibly disappeared and abducted between 2008 - 2009, reports Virakesari. SL's Attorney General announced the decision on 04.08.2021.

06.08.2021: **Pegasus** - 17 journalists from 7 countries who had been listed as potential or actual victims of the Pegasus spyware had filed complaints with prosecutors in Paris, reports JDS Lanka. Further reports indicate that this recent complaint complements earlier complaints made by 1 Reporters Without Borders journalist and 2 other journalists on 20.07.2021.

06.08.2021: **Cable** - According to Ship Management International, an integrated ABB power and propulsion package from Colombo Dockyard for advance cable-laying and repair vessel for offshore wind farms bring 300h vessel installation for Azipod, reports Colombo Page. Reports indicate that the high-tech eco-friendly vessel will join 15% of the world's fully powered cable laying and repair ships alongside France's Organe Marine fleet.

13.08.2021: **Training** - According to Times UK, the Scottish Police had paused their police training scheme for SL's police due to pressure from entities such as Human Rights Watch.

14.08.21. **India** - According to the Daily Mirror, a boat was intercepted on

25.03.2021 in Kerala carrying weapons and a quantity of heroin worth 3,000 crores. The sources confirm that the main handler is a Pakistani. Reports indicate that two residents of Chennai (members of the LTTE) were involved in this case. They admitted that they communicated through social networks and that these transportations had already commenced in mid-2020.

18.08.2021: **Mass Suicide** - 21 Eelam Tamil refugees at the Tiruchirapalli refugee camp in Tamil Nadu have completed suicide following failure by India to provide them asylum and for the continuous surveillance of those in the facility, reports Colombo Page. The asylum seekers were informed by India's Minister, KS Masthan that they would be released in 20 days. However, the failure to release them resulted in the mass suicide - another black mark on India's relationship with Tamil Eelam and its people.

19.08.2021: **Afghanistan** - SL is yet to decide whether it will accept a Taliban rule in Afghanistan after they took full control earlier this week, reports Colombo Gazette.

23.08.2021: **Kurdistan** - Kurdish PEN member, Meral Simsek faces a long sentence from Turkey for her writings with trials scheduled for 21.09.2021, reports PEN International.

23.08.2021: **Wikileaks** - According to Wikileaks, a leaked Swedish cable indicated that Sweden intended to bomb Afghanis to "enhance the marketability" of their new Gripen fighter jets.

Bilateral Discussions

03.08.2021: **Palestine** - SL's Ambassador to Palestine, E. Navalake Bennett Cure presented his credentials to Palestine's Foreign Minister, Dr. Riyad al-Malki at Palestine's Foreign Ministry on 03.08.2021, reports Virakesari.

04.08.2021: **Conclave** - A virtual 'Colombo Security Conclave' Deputy National Security Level meeting was hosted at the SL Army's (SLA) HQ on 04.08.2021 between the Maldives, SL and India, reports JDS Lanka.

Areas of concern:

- ♦ Maritime Security
- ♦ Radicalisation
- ♦ Transnational crime
- ♦ Counterterrorism

06.08.2021: **New Zealand** - New Zealand's High Commissioner to SL, Michael Appleton met with SL's Parliamentary Speaker Mahindha Yapa Abeywardena to discuss matters of mutual interest, reports Virakesari.

10.08.2021: **Tri-lateral ties** - SL, India and Maldives held a virtual meeting on 04.08.2021 and identified maritime safety and security, Terrorism and Radicalization, Trafficking and Organized Crime and Cyber Security were identified as the four pillars of trilateral cooperation, reports Colombo Page. All four identified pillars will encompass regular interactions, exercise, capacity-building, and training activities accordingly.

12.08.2021: **Peacekeeping** – SL's peace-keeping force received appraisal from the Head of Mission and Force Commander of United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Major General Stefeno Del Col during discussions with SL's Ambassador to Lebanon, Shani Calyaneratne Karunaratne for their contributions in the past decade. The appraisal was made during meeting at the Headquarters of the UNIFIL at Blue Line, Naqura on 09.08.2021. It is notable that SL's peace-keeping force has perpetuated child sexual abuse and rape in Haiti between 2004 - 2007.

12.08.2021: **Cyprus** – SL's Consul General of the Republic of Cyprus, M.H.M.N Bandara called on Cyprus' President of the House of Representatives, Annita Demetriou on 05.08.2021 where discussions regarding economic activities and strengthening of political ties were explored, reports Colombo Page.

13.08.2021: **Saudi Arabia** - In a virtual discussion between the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir and SL's Foreign Minister, Dinesh Gunawardena, Saudi Arabia has assured that it will continue to attach importance to its bilateral partnership with SL, reports Colombo Gazette.

13.08.2021: **New Zealand** - New Zealand's newly appointed first resident High Commissioner of SL, Michael Appleton paid a courtesy call on Shavendra Silva

on 13.08.2021. Discussions were held on sound bilateral relations that prevail between both countries, military organisations and possibilities for further improvement with varying training modules for tri-servicemen in SL, reports Army LK.

18.08.2021: **Afghanistan** - N. Rajapaksa held talks with the former President of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai and reaffirmed SL's continued support to the people of Afghanistan, reports Colombo Page.

20.08.2021: **Norway** - According to Colombo Gazette, talks with the Norwegian Ambassador and Finance Minister announced that Norway is seeking to increase investments in SL.

23.08.2021: **Cooperation** - SL's Foreign Minister GL Pieris met with envoys from India, China, the European Union, the United States, Japan, Russia and Pakistan, reports Economy Next. Focus areas include:

- ◆ Trade
- ◆ Investment
- ◆ COVID-19 control

25.08.2021: **Germany** – Germany's Ambassador to SL, Holgar Lothar Schubert met with SL's Minister of Foreign Affairs, GL Peiris on 24.08.2021 and discussed areas for bilateral cooperation, reports Virakesari.

26.08.2021: **Kuwait** – Kuwait's Ambassador to SL, Khalaf Pu Thair met Peiris on 24.08.2021, reports Virakesari. Reports indicate that Kuwait's government has expressed interest in strengthening bilateral trade and

economic relations – especially in SL's health and energy sectors.

26.08.2021: **Netherlands** – Peiris and the Dutch Ambassador to SL met at SL's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reports Virakesari. Bilateral relations - especially in SL's following areas were discussed:

- ◆ Legal system
- ◆ Architecture
- ◆ Food
- ◆ Culture
- ◆ Livelihood
- ◆ Socio-political system

26.08.2021: **Australia** – SL's Foreign Minister, Prof. G. L. Peiris has called on the High Commissioner of Australia, David Holly on 25.08.2021 to discuss bilateral relations with Australia, reports Colombo Page.

27.08.2021: **Korea** – SL is to promote Korean language education to strengthen bilateral ties. Korea is an important market for migrant workers from SL, Economy Next reports.

27.08.2021: **China** – The Chinese Ambassador to SL, Xi Senhong met with SL Parliament's Speaker, Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena on 26.08.2021, reports Virakesari. The meeting occurred at the SL Speaker's residence where cooperation in the following areas were discussed:

- ◆ Economic
- ◆ Financial
- ◆ Parliamentary ties
- ◆ COVID-19

28.08.2021: **Maldives** – SL's High Commission in Maldives met with the Maldives National Chamber of

Commerce and Industry on 26.08.2021 to discuss bilateral ties and business relations with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) pending, reports Colombo Page.

29.08.2021: **Turkey** – SL and Turkey noted a need for solidarity and cooperation between both countries to counter COVID-19, reports Virakesari. The Ambassador of Turkey, Dimit Sekersioulou and Peiris met at SL's Ministry of Foreign

Affairs to discuss areas of mutual cooperation.

29.08.2021: **Qatar** – The Ambassador of Qatar to SL, Jasim bin Jabir Jasim Al Sorur expressed their commitment to assist SL to combat COVID-19 whilst meeting Peiris, reports Virakesari. Areas of mutual interest were explored including Qatar's investment into SL's:

- ◆ Port City Special Economic Zone
- ◆ IMF
- ◆ Tourism Sector
- ◆ Energy Sector

Military News

03.08.2021: **Army HQ** - G. Rajapaksa paid an inspectionary visit to SL's Akuregoda Army HQ on 03.08.2021, reports Virakesari.

05.08.2021: **UAV** - According to Airforce LK, a newly renovated hangar for the UAV Research Development Project located at Katukurunda has been opened by the Commander of the SL Air Force (SLAF). During the ceremony, the SLAF Commander was briefed about ongoing projects. One of these projects is a UAV named "Lihiniya Mk-1", which would be fully produced in SL.

09.08.2021: **Arrest** - According to SL's Police Spokesman, DIG Ajith Rohana, four of SL's Tri-Forces personnel including one Air Force Sergeant and one Naval Officer have been arrested for stealing Ammonium Nitrate from an SLAF explosives storage in Welisara, reports Colombo Page. 70 kilograms of Ammonium Nitrate and a three-wheeler

have been recovered with the four individuals to be produced before the courts on 10.08.2021 following the Kelaniya Crime Investigation Unit's commencement of investigation.

16.08.2021: **Marijuana** – SL's 20th Sinha Regiment and Kuda Oya Police officials raided LKR 5 million worth of drugs from a cannabis cultivation site and arrested a 31-year-old resident of Ethiliwewa, following intelligence from the SL Army. According to Colombo Page, almost 4,000 cannabis plants which were 4 feet tall were found.

20.08.2021: **Shipment** – The SL Naval Ship (SLNS) Shakthi which departed from the Trincomalee harbour on 17.08.2021 for a shipment of medical grade oxygen, arrived at the port of Chennai, Tamil Nadu in the evening of 18.08.2021, reports Navy LK.

24.08.2021: Jungle and Water Survival Training - After an absence of two years, SL's jungle and water survival training has recommenced at the Regimental Training Centre of the SLAF station in Ampara, reports Air Force LK. According to the SLAF, the intention of the training is to prepare SL's air crew members for disasters. The training included:

- ◆ Swimming
- ◆ Water crossing
- ◆ Map reading
- ◆ Survival in the jungle
- ◆ Mountain climbing
- ◆ First aid
- ◆ Night march
- ◆ Crew rescue

WHAM

04.08.2021: Militarisation - According to C. Rajapaksa, SL military are running agricultural farms within the occupied Tamil homeland to provide employment opportunities for former LTTE cadres and to produce food for SL, reports Virakesari. However, the heavy militarisation is an attempt to shift civil-military distrust.

Military run farm-locations:

- ◆ Kilinochchi
- ◆ Mullaitivu
- ◆ Vavuniya
- ◆ Mannar

07.08.2021: Rehabilitation - According to Newswire LK, the genocidal SL Army (SLA) had donated LKR 100,000 each to the recently released 15 former cadres for self-employment and income opportunities at the Jetwing Hotel in Jaffna. The funds were donated to the SLA by Mr. Vamadevan Thiyagendran. This move is a tool of SL's extensive WHAM initiatives.

15.08.2021: Dragon boat - To promote water sports in Jaffna, the occupational SLN collaborated with the Canoe

Association of SL and SL Life Saving, to conduct a workshop on Dragon Boat racing and lifesaving at sea, reports Navy LK. These initiatives are a part of strengthening civil-military cooperation and thus neutralise resistance.

21.08.2021: Blood donation - According to Army LK, the Troops of the Security Force HQ-Jaffna donated blood to save the lives of hospitalised patients in Jaffna following a request made by Jaffna Teaching Hospital medical officers on 20.08.2021.

24.08.2021: Mobile vaccination - According to Army LK, the troops of SL's 57th 59th, 64th 66th and 68th Divisions carried out mobile vaccination programmes on 23.08.2021 in Mullaitivu, Jaffna and in the Eastern Province covering the districts of Ampara, Trincomalee and Batticaloa. Vaccinations were provided to individuals who are:

- ◆ Elderly - above the age of 60
- ◆ Sick
- ◆ Handicapped
- ◆ Feeble

26.08.2021: **Distribution** – In light of the 26th Anniversary of SL's 51st Division of the Security Forces HQ-Jaffna, troops distributed 300 lunch packets among people living in Selvapuram, Jaffna on 22.08.2021, reports Army LK.

31.08.2021: **Housing** – The foundation stones were laid by SL's Ministry of

Buddhism through SL's National Housing Authority for the construction of 4 houses in the Jaffna District the day prior to Vesak. 2 houses were set up in Uduvil and Keerimalai. These practices are an act of stimulating civil-military cooperation.

Domestic News

Tamil Eelam

05.08.2021: **Counterfeit** - According to Virakesari, a 41-year-old woman was arrested by Mullaitivu's occupational STF officers for being in possession of counterfeit 500 rupee notes amounting to a total of LKR 17,500 which was seized.

05.08.2021: **Elephant** - A 59-year-old father of 6 was found dead after being attacked by an elephant on 04.08.2021 in Kalkerni, Batticaloa, reports Virakesari.

06.08.2021: **Virakesari** - SL politicians congratulate news outlet Virakesari on its 91st anniversary, reports Virakesari.

Congratulatory remarks:

- ◆ G. Rajapaksa
- ◆ M. Rajapaksa
- ◆ R. Sampanthan
- ◆ Sajith Premadasa

06.08.2021: **Body** - The dead body of a woman was found in a bag near Valachchenai Public Market, reports Virakesari.

07.08.2021: **Excavation** - After human remains in military uniforms were found in a Vilavodai field in Kilinochchi on 05.08.2021 excavations were conducted by occupational forensic officers, reports Virakesari. Reports indicate that the extracted remains date back to 1997 and were extracted during excavations which were conducted between 06.08.2021 - 07.08.2021.

Remains found:

- ◆ Human
- ◆ Hand grenade
- ◆ Communication device
- ◆ 2 helmets
- ◆ Ammunition
- ◆ Clothes
- ◆ Food parcels

10.08.2021: **Charity** – Habitat for Humanity SL and its partners successfully concluded a European Union (EU) funded project in the Tamil homeland which caused more than 2,370 returnee families to resettle and rebuild their lives, reports Colombo Gazette.

12.08.2021: **Accident** - Occupying Manipay Police investigate the overturned bus near Kallanai in Jaffna following the injury of 20 persons, reports Colombo Page. Those injured were taken to Jaffna Teaching Hospital for treatment.

14.08.2021: **Raid** - SLN has arrested three suspects in Valvettithurai during a special foot patrol conducted by the SLN for drug possession. 126 kilograms of Kerala Cannabis and 2 kilograms of Crystal Methamphetamine ("Ice") worth LKR 50 million was seized. Three suspects aged between 32 - 38, residents of Kilinochchi were detained in connection to the incident and were handed over to occupying Vavlettithurai police, reports Colombo Page.

21.08.2021: **Thondamanaru** – SL's occupational Navy carried out a special operation in the North-western region of occupied Tamil Eelam seizing Kerala

Sri Lanka

03.08.2021: **Homosexuality** - A video of an SL councillor making controversial statements regarding homosexuality leads to discussion. SL's Penal Code prohibits "sexual intercourse against nature", "gross indecency between persons" and "fraud by impersonation" and LGBTQ+ rights are still not guaranteed, Economy Next reports. Further reports from Economy Next on 19.08.2021 indicate that SL's College of Psychologists had declared that homosexuality is not due to a mental or physical disease and called for the amendment of Article 365 of SL's Penal Code whilst criminalises homosexuality.

cannabis and turmeric work LKR 50 million on 19.08.2021. The seized contents weighed 168 kilograms and 750 kilograms respectively, reports Colombo Page. SL's multi-pronged surveillance approach resulted in the 3 suspects aged between 21 - 28 who are residents of Silavathurai and Mamunai who have been transferred to Kankesanthurai's occupying Police for investigation.

25.08.2021: **Victory** – The 218th Victory Day of Pandaravanniyan's victory over the Mullaitivu Fort was commemorated at the Mullaitivu Public Relations' Office by former provincial councillor, Durairasa Ravikaran, reports Virakesari.

28.08.2021: **Body** – A body was found with the arms and legs bound together with nylon rope and wrapped in a net near the Poonakeri Sangupitti bridge, Kilinochchi on 27.08.202, reports Virakesari.

04.08.2021: **Karuna** - A Buddhist monk who survived the Aranthalawa massacre had filed a Fundamental Rights petition demanding LKR 2 crores in compensation for victims and the immediate arrest of Vinayagamoorthy Muralidharan alias Karuna Amman, reports Virakesari. Consequently, SL's Attorney General had notified SL's High Court on 03.08.2021 that SL's CID had commenced a special investigation into the massacre.

05.08.2021: **Children** - According to SL's President's Media Division, G. Rajapaksa has called on strengthening the security

of children in rural areas, reports Colombo Page. The statement was made following discussions held with SL's National Child Protection Authority (NCPA). It was highlighted that most of the child labourers are from the estate sector. Thus, G. Rajapaksa has called on a census of those within this sector to reduce and ultimately stop child labour.

05.08.2021: **Social media** - A senior minister in SL Parliament mentioned that social media should be restricted and thus social networking sites must be totally banned or robustly regulated, Economy Next reports. Further reports indicate that the SL government is considering the introduction of legislations for social media regulation.

06.08.2021: **Hambantota** - China's Sinopec will assist SL's Hambantota to expand its bunker supply. It will serve in supplying VLSFO and soon, MGO, Economy Next reports.

07.08.2021: **Wildlife** – SL's Attorney General informed SL's Court of Appeal on 06.08.2021 that SL's Director General of Wildlife Conservation would complete the demarcation of sections 1 and 2 of Muthurajawela Sanctuary within 6 months following a petition filed by the Archbishop of Colombo, Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, and the Centre for Environmental Justice, reports Colombo Page. Concerns were raised regarding the destruction of the forest for illegal construction and development activities.

07.08.2021: **Bomb threat** – Social media posts were circulated warning of potential bomb attacks that were supposedly to be conducted on the

night of 06.08.2021 in Colombo. SL police and military announced that the posts were fake and that the issue is currently under investigation, reports Colombo Gazette.

12.09.2021: **Sex Trafficking** –Colombo Gazette reports that four websites promoting a sex-trafficking ring in Mount Lavinia had been banned. Reports indicate that investigations revealed that a 15-year-old girl had been sold for sex via the internet to multiple customers for LKR 10,000, LKR 15,000, and LKR 30,000 over a period of three months through these websites.

16.08.2021: **Cabinet reshuffle** - Between senior SL government officials, seven key portfolios, including health, education, energy, and transport were swapped. N. Rajapaksa will take on a new role as SL's Minister of Development Coordination and Monitoring in addition to his existing portfolio of Sports and Youth, reports Economy Next.

20.08.2021: **Weapons** – SL's Officers of the Police Narcotics Bureau have recovered weapons from Walana, Weligama on 19.08.2021, reports Colombo Page. SL's police believe that the weapons belong to an "underworld gang operating in the Southern province". Reports indicate that investigations are currently underway. Items found include:

- ◆ 5 pistols
- ◆ 5 magazines
- ◆ 10 live ammunitions

25.08.2021: **PTA** - G. Rajapaksa has appointed a three-member Advisory board under Section 13 of the draconian PTA to gather recommendations and

provide advice regarding imprisonment, detainment, release and bail, reports Colombo Page.

25.08.2021: **Salary** – SL's cabinet subcommittee has been appointed to examine SL's ongoing salary issue to identify a fair solution, reports Colombo Page. Recommendations are expected to be published in SL's gazette before 20.11.2021.

25.08.2021: **Vaccination Card** – According to SL's Health Ministry, digital

vaccination cards would be issued to vaccinated individuals from 15.09.2021, reports Virakesari.

30.08.2021: **Quakes** - Geologists noted that the frequency of earthquakes had increased in recent years and are investigating the causes. Recently, earthquakes could be detected in Hambantota and Thanamalwila. Some scientists believe that it could be due to the development of a plate margin, reports Economy Next.

HFT 2021 Event Schedule

SEPT 15	SEPT 16	SEPT 17	SEPT 18	SEPT 19	SEPT 20	SEPT 21	SEPT 22	SEPT 23	SEPT 24	SEPT 25	SEPT 26
Art Exhibition 15.09 - 17.09 18.00 - 21.00 VARASITHY MAHALL HÜTTENWIESENSTRASSE 6 8108 DALLIKON			Convention 18.09 & 19.09 Tamil Trivia FROM 6PM AU E-book Release FROM 6PM AU			Meet & Discuss 21.09.2021 FROM 20.00 UHR 22.09.2021 FROM 20.00 UHR		Phoenix TNG Exhibition 23.09 - 25.09 HANS DER RELIGIONEN BERN EUROPLATZ 1 3008 BERN		Canada 10 AM - 2PM CA	
Website Launch 15.09				Workshop 19.09 & 20.09 Live FROM 14.00 UHR Online FROM 20.00 UHR				MILLIKEN DISTRICT PARK - SITE A 5555 STEELES AVE. E. TORONTO, ON M3L 1S7 (MCCOWAN RD. & STEELES AVE. E.)			
			GASHOF BRAUEREI UNTERE DURRMÜHLESTRASSE 2 4704 NIEDERBIPP					Convention 25.09 & 26.09 Workshop FROM 6PM AU Photo Gallery FROM 6PM AU			
								VARASITHY MAHALL HÜTTENWIESENSTRASSE 6 8108 DALLIKON			
								France FROM 15.00 Swiss • Monument FROM 15.00 UHR			
								MAISON DE QUARTIER DES TOULOUSES 20 PLACE DES TOULOUSES 95000 CERGY			

HFT 2021

Future Features

Stay tuned for next month's issue of Akkinip Paravaikal Newsletter for our coverage on the Global HFT Movement!

Our Identity – National Flag of Tamil Eelam

KAYALVIZHI

In 1948 SL became independent from the British Empire. The SL government engaged in making Sri Lanka Sinhala Buddhist. The Official Language Act made Sinhalese the official language of Sri Lanka. It began with the state-sponsored settlement of Sinhalese in traditional Tamil lands. Tamils were systematically removed from government jobs, parliament, and denied access to higher education.

From the beginning of the 1970s, the Tamil people understood that they were going to suffer increasing repression from the Sinhalese. The direct proof of this feeling is the creation of more than a dozen militant groups.

In 1977, the Tamil people of SL established a mandate to seek autonomy. The Tamil United Liberation Federation (TULF) took up this mandate through peaceful means. However, these peaceful protests were ruthlessly crushed by the SL military. Several armed guerrilla groups emerged and began an armed struggle for freedom - it was the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) who continued the fight for sovereignty.

05.05.1976 is an important date in the Tamils' struggle for liberation. It was on this date that the militant group TNT (Tamil New Tigers) changed its name to the one that is now widely known - the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Thereafter, the Tiger Flag was created by our leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, and became the flag of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Description of Tamil Eelam national flag

Our National Leader chose the Tiger as the Tamil Eelam national insignia and the historic shield with crossed swords flag of the last Tamil king, Pandara Vanniyan to present an image symbolising martial valour and the uniqueness of Tamil language and culture.

The Tiger flag of the Chola Empire is mentioned in the Periya Puranam, which was compiled during the 12th century by Sekkizhar. Historically, Tamil people have a deep affiliation with the symbol. The crossed bayonets were based on the historical crossed-sword emblem of the Vanni mannan - the flag of the last king of Vanni - King Pandara Vanniyan.

The flag is made up of four colours: yellow, red, black, and white.

Yellow - the righteousness of the Tamil struggle and reinforces Tamil nation's will to uphold moral high ground during its path towards freedom.

Red - the necessity of revolutionary changes to spread social justice.

Black - determination and resoluteness as vital to withstand the adversities and to build Tamil Eelam. To provide security and to defend the borders.

White - purity, honesty and selflessness from the leaders and citizens of Tamil Eelam.

The Tiger symbol of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) created in 1977, was designated as the National Flag of Tamil Eelam in 1990 differentiating it from the LTTE's emblem by leaving out the letters inscribing the movement's name.

Difference between the Tamil Eelam National flag and LTTE flag:

It is essential to note the significant difference between the LTTE flag and the Tamil Eelam National Flag.

The LTTE flag contains the writing "Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam " in both English and Tamil. The national flag does not contain any such writings on it.

It should also be noted that the Tamil Eelam National flag was adopted in 1990 - more than a decade before the LTTE was introduced in 2001.

The Tamil community recognises this flag as our National Flag and a representation of Tamils. It represents the struggle to re-establish Tamil sovereignty. We should clarify and teach to the next generation the respect we give to our flag because this flag is our identity - it is our responsibility to honour it. Without succeeding in this, establishing an independent homeland for Tamils will not be possible.

Economic News

Sectors

06.08.2021: **Energy** - SL aims to generate 70 % renewable energy by 2030. This will force the Ceylon Electricity Board to create a long-term generation plan, Economy Next reports.

03.08.2021: **Compensation Payments** - Compensation for the death of protected animals increased from LKR

500,000 to LKR 1 million. Compensation for "total disability" and for those with partial disability or physical injury, has also been increased, Economy Next reports.

05.08.2021: **Fertilisers** - SL will permit the import of special fertiliser blends and micronutrients for limited quantities to meet demand. However, the imports of chemical fertilisers are still banned, Economy Next reports.

08.08. 2021: **Pharmaceuticals** - Based on the "successful results" in import controls, which helped save foreign exchange, similar efforts are now being made in SL's pharmaceutical sector. According to SL's Finance Minister, 20 % of the country's pharmaceutical needs thus far have been produced by SL itself. This share is to be increased to 50 %, Economy Next reports.

10.08.2021: **Milk powder** - The import tax of LKR 175 per kilogram of milk powder will be abolished to maintain the current price. SL still intends to promote the consumption of fresh milk, Economy Next reports.

15.08.2021: **Apparel Industry** – SL's Apparel Exporters' Association has highlighted strengths in sustainability, technology and our strategic importance on its new website and aims to increase supply chain transparency. In doing so, it aims to highlight ethical practices and improve brand image, Economy Next reports.

18.08.2021: **Tourism** – SL's tourism sector will work with Germany to promote environmentally friendly and more sustainable tourism. Germany was one of the major source markets for tourism in SL prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Economy Next reports.

18.08.2021: **Rice** - As rice prices remain very high due to speculation of a rice shortage, SL plans to import 6,000 tonnes of rice from Pakistan. Soon, five modern rice mills are expected to be

constructed in five key rice producing districts in SL, Economy Next reports.

23.08.2021: **Imports** - SL plans an import credit facility for expensive goods as liquidity injections put pressure on SL's currency peg and led to record deficits in the balance of payments. Restricted convertibility, by redeeming rupees, will repay the SL government's external debt, Economy Next reports.

30.08.2021: **Food** - G. Rajapaksa issues emergency decree to supply essential goods. Officials are instructed to ensure rice, paddy and sugar are sold at prescribed prices, Economy Next reports.

19.08.2021: **Bread price increase** – The All-Ceylon Bakery Owners' Association has announced that a decision has been made to increase the price of a loaf of bread by LKR 5 which will be put into effect from 23.08.2021. This is attributed to businesses being unable to cope with the increase in the price of raw materials, reports Colombo Gazette.

02.08.2021: **Money printing** - SL printed money to the tune of LKR 213 billion on 26.07.2021. Money printing leads to losses in reserves and foreign exchange shortages. According to Economy Next, it does not lead to domestic price inflation because the money does not enter circulation. However, according to trading economics data, there is a consistent inflation, which is currently estimated at 5.7%.

03.08.2021: **Oman** - Oman's Shumookh International LLC signed an agreement

with the Urban Development Authority of SL and is interested in purchasing government bonds from the Government of SL. It aims to deepen economic ties with SL, Economy Next reports.

Investment

04.08.2021: **Acquisition** - An Indian technology company, HCL Technologies, will acquire 80 % of the office space of Cinnamon Life -an office tower. HCL Technologies will be important for the digital age, Economy Next reports.

09.08.2021: **Investment** - Sea Horse Yachts, will build a USD 58 million facility at Hambantota Port. This may create more than 500 jobs, Economy Next reports.

13.08.2021: **Exchange Rate** – The LKR's uncredible peg to the USD of 203 is mostly broken. Banks are having difficulty finding dollars to service repayments in the foreign exchange markets, Economy Next reports.

Loans/Income

10.08.2021: **Loans** – SL's Ministry of Finance instructs struggling SL state institutions to borrow at an interest rate of 4 %. This is because it makes state institutions aware of how to handle finances, Economy Next reports.

17.08.2021: **Loan** - SL receives a RMB 2.0 billion loan from the China Development Bank, equivalent to about USD 308 million. This is part of a

USD 1.2 billion budget support loan, Economy Next reports.

19.08.2021: **Bangladesh** - SL will receive the first tranche of USD 50 million from the Bangladesh Bank. SL will receive another USD 100 million after five working days and another USD 50 million after a similar period, Economy Next reports.

23.08.2021: **IMF** - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reallocated Special Drawing Rights (SDR), with SL receiving the equivalent of USD 800 million. The SDR allocation will allow SL to increase foreign exchange reserves and reduce its reliance on costly domestic or external debt, Economy Next reports.

29.08.2021: **Oil credits** - SL asks the United Arab Emirates and Iran through diplomatic channels to give supplier credits. This is because it can save foreign currency and help balance the current account deficit, Economy Next reports.

19.08.2021: **Central Bank** - Colombo Gazette reports that the Central Bank of SL has decided to increase the Standing Deposit Facility Rate and Standing Lending Facility Rate of the bank by 50 basis points each, to 5.00 % and 6.00 % respectively.

23.08.2021: **EU** - SL and the EU are to further strengthen trade ties. In addition, the EU warns SL of a possible loss of the GSP Plus monitoring process, Economy Next reports.

COVID-Relief

22.08.2021: **Allowance** - In light of the ongoing pandemic and temporary closure of the country, SL's Presidential Task Force for Economic Revival and Poverty Alleviation announced only low-income families who do not receive any allowance from GoSL will be eligible to receive LKR 2000, reports Colombo Page.

24.08.2021: **Pakistan** - Pakistan is donating 75 ventilators and 150 non-invasive CPAP machines to SL. This will be used to combat the COVID-19 epidemic, in which 190 people die every day, Economy Next reports.

24.08.2021: **Imports** - SL will import 300,000 litres of oxygen for the

government health system. On 22.08.2021, the Indian Navy supplied 100 tonnes, Economy Next reports.

27.08.2021: **Donation Covid** - According to PMD News, Mr. V. Thyagendran, a resident of Jaffna, donated LKR 10 million to the 'ITUKAMA' COVID-19 Healthcare and Social Security Fund.

28.08.2021: **China vaccines** - According to Navy LK, China provided 300,000 Sinopharm vaccines to the Armed Forces of SL. The consignment of vaccine was officially handed over to Kamal Gunaratne by the Defence Attaché of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in SL.

Economic Profile – August 2021

Private Credit	June 2021	↑ LKR 83 billion
	July 2021	↑ by LKR 490.6 billion
Credit to gov		↑ LKR 170 billion
		LKR 124 / 170 billion printed
Trade	June 2021	↑ to USD 1,659 million
Trade deficit		USD 4,316 million
Central Bank		
Profits	2020	LKR 63.4 billion
	2018	LKR 137 billion
FOREX Reserves	July 2021	USD 2,833.5 million
		(Same as 2009 after May)
SL Rupee		↓ to 221
	Peg	211 - 215
Exports	July 2021	↑ 22 % to USD 6.6 billion
Inflation	July 2021	↑ to 6.8 %
Standard & Poor's Rating		CCC+ -> CCC-
Policy Rate		↑ 05 points -> sale of LKR 12 billion gov bonds

SL's economic developments reported within the month of August, 2021.

“Regardless of whether we win or lose, this is our shared experience. This is merely a path in our journey.” – Ragesh Nambiar

SC PHOENIX

Ragesh is the head coach of the Tamil Eelam Football Association (TEFA). In an interview with our sports division, SC Phoenix, Ragesh speaks of his experiences and vision for the team as well as its role in the continuity of our struggle.

PERSONAL MOTIVATION

What motivated you to coach Tamil Eelam FA?

The person who initiated this was Jana. He is in Canada, and he had asked me to coach the team. He was playing football as a semi-professional in Canada. He told me that this World Cup was occurring in Kurdistan. The Kurds are like us too - they are a distinct nation but they do not have their country so they cannot play in the FIFA World Cup as well. That year the matches occurred in Kurdistan. Jana organised this project to have us involved in the World Cup that occurred in Kurdistan— with Jana as the Captain and myself as the Coach for our team.

How did you become engaged with the struggle?

I have attended Maaveerar Naal events from a young age and had listened to news coverage of what was happening back home over the radio. All of my relatives such as my parents and uncle would speak about it too and that is how I initially became aware of it. I was studying at university when the events of 2009 unfolded – whilst I had known about our situation prior it was then that I came to know about it more and wanted to do something about it. In January 2010 I joined TYO, and this was when my engagement with the struggle commenced.

What was your best experience with Tamil Eelam FA?

One of my most memorable experiences would be when we went to Kurdistan in 2012 for our first match – especially how the public there supported our players. It was a special feeling for them too to see different countries like ours' play with theirs. This was surprising for us too. The Tamils in Kurdistan came to watch us play as well – we did not expect Tamils to be there in Kurdistan. Even at the airport when we arrived in Kurdistan, we met some Tamils who were working there. When they saw us, they asked us who we

were and why we were there. We started to speak with them, and a group formed there – they later came to the matches to support us, and this was a surprise and shock for us.

They were people that we did not know – but they were Tamil, and we were Tamil that was the only thing. If we had just arrived at the airport as individuals, they probably would not have spoken to us but because we went as a team, we were able to connect.

What was your best experience with Tamil Eelam FA as a team?

Most recently in 2019 we played in 3 matches. We played against Yorkshire in the UK, against East Turkestan in France and finally against another team in Holland. In the 2018 World Cup match our scores were not that great, and our team was upset that we could not play very well – especially because we could not achieve what we had expected to. From that low, we discussed how to improve in 2019 and won against the Yorkshire team. The Yorkshire Team did not expect us to perform so well as our results from the previous year did not portray our full potential.

However, we knew our potential and we must realise it and portray it. We will make some mistakes when we expose our potential, but we must unite as one beyond those mistakes and progress our team. Our players play a crucial role in this progression. They messaged me after the matches in 2018 and discussed what our next steps were for our next match. They were resolute on playing better in the next World Cup and questioned who we should contact to proceed to the next stage. Once we had come together as a team and won our first match in 2019, a lot of our supporters came to watch us play in France.

I was not in Holland for the last match as I had to move to Sydney at the time. Even then, our players took on the responsibility for the match and played the match well as a team. That was a positive to see the team come together like that as that match was crucial for us to gain match qualification points to enter the World Cup which was scheduled to occur in 2020. Their united performance allowed the team to qualify for the next World Cup.

What makes you the perfect head coach for Tamil Eelam's national team?

I am not perfect. There are many other coaches who are Tamils, and I would like them to have this opportunity too. When they are ready to do so I will continue to assist the team through other means, but for now I know the history of our team and have contacts – hence I am the head coach now, but it is not necessary for me to be so. Personally, I would like someone else to take on the role in 2 years' time. My standard should be the minimum for head coaches in the future to ensure our growth. It is a difficult role, there are pressures, especially considering that we only have 1 weeks' time to train together as a team prior to the matches.

How do you manage the team?

I do make some mistakes at times as I am still learning too. Usually, I am only able to gauge how each of the players play together as a team during our training. We can observe football through 4 categories: physical, technical, tactical and communication such as team chemistry. This allows me to see how they play together and that's how we select them. Sometimes, this will only become apparent when playing matches. It also depends on which stage of their football career they are in so that they can slowly be transitioned into the team accordingly.

What are your strengths and weaknesses?

My weakness is that I have not played professional football whilst other coaches do have that experience – one that I do not possess. I have coached many other teams but did not engage completely as I have other responsibilities. However, my strength is an enthusiasm to learn; be it reading, meeting new people, learning other sports, or moving to another country.

TEAM

What makes a good team player and team?

As mentioned earlier a player must possess the 4 characteristics that are crucial in football and portray such aspects on the pitch as well. However, as a player they are a person and hence they must possess discipline, good habits and must be able to engage with others well.

A good team must have good team chemistry and engage with each other on the team based on awareness of each co-player's strengths and weaknesses. Reaction times and means to the opposing team's actions are also crucial. Engagement with spaces on the pitch such as where it is and how to use it must also be considered. Space, opponents and teammates are a fundamental aspect of good communication in a good team and must be maintained continuously. Team intelligence and tactical flexibility are also essential as the outcome of what would occur on the pitch is ever changing. We provide tactical training in communication and set pieces as well.

What makes a good captain?

A good leader depends on various aspects. It varies in accordance with each individual as leadership varies too. Usually, a good captain should have the most experience in a team, how much they have played and their age. We usually decide through assessing all these aspects. Not every captain is always the best but usually when a player has

been playing for an extended period of time, they naturally gain the attributes of a good captain.

As a global team separated across the world, how do you work together?

We have coordinators in all the countries where we have players. Through these coordinators we select and manage our players. We unite all the players in one country prior to the matches and conduct training exercises. In addition to the basics in training we tend to focus on team bonding and communication more. Our expectations are for the players to portray a high aptitude in the 4 categories but to think as one. They should be able to think almost identically – there may be differences but mostly they should be able to play in a uniform style.

What is the unique style of the Tamil Eelam FA?

It is dependent on the opposing team too. We are currently ranked 16th according to CONIFA's rankings. There are 15 teams who play better than us so we must be realistic. Usually, we must have ball possession. If we have ball possession it must be effective. We must create chances to score goals and should be familiar with counter-attacking football. Truly, the style must be a mix. If we want to win a match we cannot always engage in counterattacks, we must be unpredictable. This unpredictability should be our strength.

What is your vision for Tamil Eelam FA in the next 10 years?

We must at least rank within the top 10 in the next World Cup. It depends on our players as well. Our players must play at a high standard.

What are the difficulties if any that you have faced as the Head Coach of Tamil Eelam?

In 2013 we selected a good team and went to play at the Isle of Man. We played well in the first match and in the second round we were to play against the team which was ranked 1st at the time. I had devised a plan based on their strengths however they did not play as we had expected. They had altered their tactical formation against our strengths which was surprising for me. As the best team they could have easily won without altering their formation, but they still altered it to counter our strengths. Within 5 – 10 minutes into the match I knew that we would not be able to win. We attempted to make some minor changes to our strategy, but it was not effective – they were strong in every department; hence we were unable to break them, it was difficult to win. However, their willingness to adjust their tactics according to their opponents was a lesson for me as they were not arrogant despite being the best-ranking CONIFA team.

How do you overcome these obstacles?

At that time, we were not flexible, and we had not trained for that match's outcome. This really depends on how we think – how we observe, analyse and react and to what occurs at the matches. If that is difficult, we must consider how to act the next time.

Did you face any internal or external pressures as the Tamil Eelam team?

We faced the usual pressures – when I had started out, I was only 23. As I was still learning how to coach, I did receive pressure from older people who said that this was a difficult task. In terms of internal pressures there were not that many, but we did have differences of opinion at times – this is normal, all organisations are like that. However, it is important to continue to work together beyond these issues. We do still have minor differences in opinion at times but not as much as we used to.

CONIFA receives the most pressure due to opposition against us. They receive many letters claiming that we are not a country and to ban us from playing at the matches.

How do you feel about playing for CONIFA instead of FIFA?

It is difficult that despite being a distinct nation and identity that we cannot play at FIFA. It was only recently that we lost our country. Not just us, but even across Tamils in Tamil Nadu, Malaysia, Singapore etc we do not have a team specifically for Tamils in FIFA. However, we receive a lot of support from a lot of other Tamils who send us supportive messages as we are the only team that exists for Tamils. This is also a type of struggle as well, but this struggle should become a positive experience for our people. We are often viewed as victims, but the reality is that we are not. We are a people who can play football as well and through coming together as a team this portrays our strength and resilience.

TAMIL EELAM

Why do you think a football team is important for Eelam Tamils?

A national team is like our symbol and identity. Regardless of whether we win or lose, this is our shared experience. This is merely a path in our journey.

We are not competing with any other team within Tamils – usually our community is internally competitive be it politically or in football. We are determined to ensure that such competitiveness does not emerge within our political and football spheres, and we have been working with this intent. We have been successful in doing so thus far.

When playing for individual clubs there may be competitiveness but when we come to play for Tamil Eelam we come together as one. We view this as a positive. Our players come from different countries and come continuously – this continuity is also important as they do not come once and leave unsatisfied. Due to the diversity of the age range of our

players and our coordinators we are able to witness that this team brings together our people – the team especially reaches many young players.

The only thing that we do not have thus far is a female team as there are only a few females in coordinating roles such as being a coach or referee for a football team. In that regard we are not diverse. The number of women who play football is quite small and within that, roles of coordination are even smaller. We do have players for our female team, but we must pay more attention to it and facilitate this growth further.

What prevents TE FA from playing in Tamil Eelam?

We have not attempted to do so but our expectation is that if we do go to play there, we will experience problems. We know that the Government of Sri Lanka does not even want Tamil Eelam to exist as an idea. They further pressure people who work towards it and that is why we have not tried to play in Tamil Eelam. However, it is our desire to play in Tamil Eelam one day. First, we must strengthen our team and ourselves through uniting Tamils across the diaspora - let us wait and see.

What role do you think SC Phoenix and TE FA will have on the progress of our struggle?

For example, the activities of TE FA and SC Phoenix make others aware that we as Eelam Tamils exist as a distinct people. Through doing so we have gained many supporters.

We have our own distinct identity and culture, and we must be free to live our lives independently together. We like to watch movies together; we like to sing and laugh together, and we like to play football together. As organisations, we continue to provide our people the spaces and opportunities to do so – if we do not, we would not have these opportunities.

In our struggle, how important are the many types of training?

In terms of football, we are only conducting everything at an amateur level. However, our aim is to make this more professional. To do so, training is essential. For example, if 5 Eelam Tamils become highly competent football players who are selected into the Barcelona team, they would gain a platform. When these players speak about Tamil Eelam, we would gain more awareness and they would become role models to future generations.

Even with politics, the more we train and make it more professional the better the outcome would be for us – it is the same with football.

How do you envision football training and Tamil Eelam FA to be in a fully functioning Tamil Eelam?

We should have a male and female team and sub-divisions under both for various age groups. We should have a place to train for our players and we must generate opportunities for our players to gain an education to further themselves. We should also have a team for differently abled persons and this team should compete at the Paralympics. Our team must also compete at the Olympics, FIFA World Cup and Asian Games.

We should also assist the development of local football clubs in Tamil Eelam – not just in Tamil Eelam but wherever Tamils live. We must develop the talents of Tamils who live everywhere such as Europe, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Canada, Australia. We should also be efficient at all sports, such as futsal, basketball, handball, volleyball etc. The standard of our sports' teams should be developed to one where we can win gold at the Olympics.



News about Oppression & Resistance

02.08.2021: **Commemoration** - The 32nd memorial of the Valvai massacre was commemorated in Valvettithurai, reports Virakesari.

02.08.2021: **TID** - According to JDS Lanka, the Chairman of Kilinochchi's Karachchi Divisional Secretariat, Vezhamaligithan had been summoned to appear at SL's TID office in Kilinochchi on 06.08.2021 for investigation.

03.08.2021: **Hishalini** – SL police are investigating the words "cause of my death" which were found written on the wall of the room where the young domestic worker had stayed at the residence of former Minister Rishad Bathiudeen. School books belonging to the girl were also found, reports Colombo Gazette. Further reports from Virakesari on 30.08.2021 indicate that the secondary suspect was restricted

04.08.2021: **Strike** - At least 48 Teachers' Union activists including 16 women were arrested by SL Police whilst they were returning from a protest in Colombo demanding the elimination of salary anomalies, reports JDS Lanka.

05.08.2021: **TID** - Peter Ilancheliyan had received a summons by plain-clothed officers on 04.08.2021 to appear before the TID office in Kilinochchi for questioning on 06.08.2021, reports Virakesari. Reports indicate that Ilancheliyan is a social activist and Mullaitivu Central Executive Committee

Member of the Ilankai Tamil Arasu Katchi (ITAK).

05.08.2021: **PTA** - The Batticaloa District Judge, AC Rizwan extended the detention of 68 Muslims detained under the PTA following the 2019 Easter attacks until 19.08.2021, reports JDS Lanka.

Demography of detainees:

- ♦ Kattankudy
- ♦ Kalmunai
- ♦ Sainthamaruthu
- ♦ Sammanthurai

05.08.2021: **KNDU** - According to JDS Lanka, members of the Batticaloa branch of the Ceylon Teachers' Union and Eastern University Teachers' Association had held a march from Gandhi Park to Kalladi bridge against the militarisation of higher education.

05.08.2021: **Bail** - 44 protestors including 40 teachers and principals arrested on 04.08.2021 for participating in a Teachers' and Principals' trade union protest calling for the resolution of salary issues have been released on a set bail of LKR 100,000, each reports Colombo Page. Those involved had committed an offense under SL's Highways Act, Quarantine Ordinance and Penal Code.

06.08.2021: **Arrest** – According to Ajith Rohana five students along with Convenor of SL's Inter University Students' Federation have been arrested by Thalangama Police following protest the

Kotelawala Defence University Bill (KNDU) at Parliament Road 90 on 03.08.2021, reports Colombo Page. Additionally, police have seized three vans that transported protestors to the location citing interprovincial travel restrictions.

06.08.2021: **KNDU** - According to JDS Lanka, workers from the Noritake Lanka Porcelain factory in Matale had walked out of work to strike in solidarity with the ongoing protests the militarisation of higher education in SL on 06.08.2021.

12.08.2021: **Attack** - Tamil Nadu fishermen from Rameswaram have accused the SLN of throwing stones at them at night on 11.08.2021, reports Colombo Page. The men were fishing near Kachchaitheevu when 5 SLN patrol boats surrounded and pelleted stones at them hitting one person in the head. The individual was taken to hospital for treatment. The occupational SLN destroyed their nets and threatened arrest.

13.08.2021: **COVID-19** – According to News First LK, Shavendra Silva had mentioned that the possession of fully-vaccinated vaccination cards would be mandatory when visiting public spaces from 15.09.2021. It is likely that this measure would be used to stem Tamils from commemorating Lt. Col. Thileepan during the month of September.

14.08.2021: **Intimidation** – The relatives of the Sencholai students who approached the Sencholai bombing site to commemorate the 15th memorial of the massacre were turned back by occupational SLA and police officers, reports JDS Lanka.

14.08.2021: **Commemoration** - Locals commemorated the 31st memorial of Father Eugene John Hebert at the Eastern Technical Institute in Batticaloa on 14.08.2021. Father Hebert was deemed to have disappeared in Eravur alongside a Tamil student from August 1990, reports JDS Lanka.

14.08.2021: **COVID-19** – Batticaloa's Regional Director Dr. N. Mayuran mentioned that a new burial plot has been chosen as the Oddamavadi burial site is running low on space for burials, reports JDS Lanka.

20.08.2021: **ONUR** – SL's Office for National Unity and Reconciliation launched their website with the objective of promoting unity and reconciliation among the people on the island, reports Colombo Page. A tactic to withhold pressure and scrutiny from the UN.

21.08.2021: **Protest** – The Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim communities in Negombo staged a joint protest demanding G. Rajapaksa to respond to a letter submitted by SL's Catholic Church regarding justice for the Easter Sunday Attacks from 2019, reports JDS Lanka.

23.08.2021: **Duties** - G. Rajapaksa will proceed with preparations for the Sri Dalada Perahera festival citing national duties to bring forward "bliss to all Buddhists", reports Colombo Page. Prioritisation of the event considering the ongoing pandemic and repression of events by marginalised communities comes into question as a result. Al Jazeera further covered the commence of festivities.

23.08.2021: **Media** - Tamil journalist Punniyamoorthy Sasikaran - treasurer of Batticaloa District Tamil Journalists' Association, was questioned by occupational police for the 2nd time in 2 months at the Special Crime Branch of Batticaloa SSP Office, reports JDS Lanka.

24.08.2021: **Kowsika** – P-TNG participated in a demonstration which took place in Basel. On the same day, the 3-day trial concerning the case of Kowsika was initiated. Kowsika was a 28-year-old Tamil asylum seeker, who tried to complete suicide in the "Waaghof" prison in Basel in 2018. She was found by four prison guards who did not give her first aid thus leading to her death. Further reports from SRF on 27.08.2021, the 4 guards were acquitted from all charges as the cause of death was supposedly unclear – cause through Kowsika's suicide or the prison guards' negligence.

25.08.2021: **CID** - Batticaloa Civil Society Forum's president Sabaratnam Sivayoganathan was interrogated by CID at Kallady for 2 hours examining his phone and Facebook account, reports JDS Lanka.

28.08.2021: **Buddhicisation** – SL's Maha Sangha staged a protest against the construction of a walkway on Polonnaruwa Parakrama Samudra tank, reports Colombo Page. The *satyagraha* protesters alongside the monk included residents and farmers calling on the immediate halting of rock removal along the breakwater area. However, work continues despite this.

30.08.2021: **Enforced Disappearances** – The International Day of Disappearances was marked across the Tamil homeland through various acts of resistance, reports Virakesari.

- ♦ Socially distanced protest - Vavuniya
- ♦ Symbolic protests staged from homes - Mullaitivu

31.08.2021: **Protests** - To end the long strike by teachers and principals to get online education back on track, SL wants to recognise the services of teachers and principals as a "closed service." The carve-out will allow the government to address their demands for salary anomalies, wages, transfers and other benefits separate from the rest of the civil service.

Signs of Structural Genocide

27.08.2021: **Iranaimadu** – According to the Karachi Pradesiya Sabha's Chairman, Arunachalam Velamalikithan, the occupational army's unlawful construction activities near Iranaimadu Junction could be destructed through the Pradesiya Sabha legislation if the

construction is not ceased. The military's construction activities are an indication of militarisation and land

29.08.2021: **Sand mining** – Farmers from Kilinochchi expressed concerns regarding illegal sand mining which

caused their loss of fields and livelihood, thus disrupting the lands' territorial integrity and impeding the locals' financial autonomy. According to Virakesari, farmers expressed that farming lands had been lost due to illegal sand mining and authorities' negligence in the following areas:

- ◆ Uruppulam
- ◆ Sivanagar
- ◆ Pannankandi
- ◆ Umayalpuram
- ◆ Tattuvankotti
- ◆ Periyakulam
- ◆ Kadavalai
- ◆ Nagedrapuram
- ◆ Kallaru



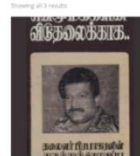
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